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LETTER DATED 15 MARCH 1963 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF COSTA RICA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In behalf of the Government of Costa Rica, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the letter which I sent yesterday to the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning the Cuban Government's letter of 4 March.

Since the Cuban letter was circulated as an official Security Council document, despite the fact that it contained insults to the President and Minister for Foreign Affairs of my country, I should be grateful if you would kindly arrange for this letter to be circulated in the same way, as an official Security Council document.

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New York, 15 March 1963

Sir,

I regret that the Government of Cuba should have imposed on you the tedious task of reading its letter of 4 March 1963, in which it insults the President and Minister for Foreign Affairs of my country, without any respect for the traditional standards of decorum in matters of language in the United Nations. Your displeasure may have been heightened by your having had to arrange for copies of the letter to be circulated to representatives of Member States.

Before the so-called crisis of October 1962, it is possible that the Government of Cuba may have succeeded in impressing some countries by its repeated statements in the United Nations in which it sought to create the impression that Cuba was a fearless and peace-loving country threatened by a great American Power. The crisis revealed Cuba for what it was. While it was playing the role of a victim in the United Nations, it was secretly plotting schemes against the American continent, including the use of nuclear weapons, in order to further the foreign policy of a great Power outside the continent.

In the belief that the grave events of October 1962 have already disappeared from our memories, the Cuban Government is again trying to pose as the victim of a non-American plot, and to that end, with its habitual

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audacity, it is seeking to represent as aggressors countries such as Costa Rica which are on the alert to defend their sovereignty and democratic institutions, because of the serious threat to the peoples of America resulting from Soviet intervention in Cuba - publicly admitted by the Head of the USSR Government - and the notorious and systematic campaign being waged from Cuban territory to foment subversion in other countries of the Hemisphere, thus disturbing the course of democratic revolutions already under way, which genuinely have their roots in the American continent.

Despite the inscience of its letter of 4 March, the Cuban Government will not succeed in making the United Nations forget those dangerous days in October 1962 or in stopping the countries belonging to the Organization of American States from exercising their inalienable right of self-defence, national or collective, which is recognized and proclaimed in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated to representatives of Member States.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Fernando VOLIO Jiménez
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica
to the United Nations

I have the honour, etc.

(Signed) Fernando VOLIO Jiménez
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica
to the United Nations
